

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner in charge of the above identified application for the telephone interview courtesy extended to the undersigned attorney on April 26, 2002.

During the interview it was pointed out that the positioning means of the present invention included gripping means for holding the model as well as gripping means for gripping the container. Thus when the first gripping means grips the model and the second container means simultaneously grips the container. The model and the container are substantially connected to each other as a single piece during the vibrational motion generated by the vibration means. In Takayuki, gripping means are provided for gripping the model for insertion into a container, there are no gripping means for gripping the container so that the model and the container vibrate as a single piece. In other words the model and container are never connected together as a single piece. Thus in Takayuki the vibration of the container and the sand within the container will exert considerable stresses on the model and could possibly damage the model. Since the model and the container of the present invention move together as a single piece the stresses are not placed on the model when it is disposed within the container.

In view of the somewhat awkward language of the last paragraph of claim 17 claim 17 has been amended to more clearly set forth that the positioning means include first model gripping means connected to the positioning means for gripping said models and second container gripping means connected to said positioning means for gripping said containers so that with said first and second gripping means gripping, respectively, the models and the container, the models and the containers will be substantially connected to each other as a single piece during the vibrational motion generated by the vibration means. It was agreed during the

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interview that such changes would not introduce any new matter whatsoever but merely clarify the claim language. Therefore it is respectfully requested that claim 17 as well as the claims 18-28 inclusive which are dependent directly or indirectly therefrom be allowed and the application passed to issue forthwith.

If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert V. Sloan', written over a horizontal line.

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

17. (Amended) A container-filling device for lost-foam casting systems, including in a single operational combination:

-supporting means for containers with associated vibration means to set said containers into vibration;

-sand-feeding means for feeding dosed quantities of sand into said containers; and

-positioning means associated with said containers to position foam models into said containers and that are capable of sustaining said models both while the sand is being fed into the containers by said feeding means and while the containers containing said models are being vibrated by said vibration means;

wherein said positioning means include first model gripping means ~~capable of acting on~~ connected to said positioning means for gripping said models and second container gripping means ~~capable of acting on~~ connected to said positioning means for gripping the said containers, so that, with said first and second gripping means gripping, respectively, the models and the container, the models and the said container will be substantially connected to each other as a single piece, during the vibrational motion generated by said vibration means.